

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

**1. (Currently Amended)** Lustrous vacuum-deposited copper-based metal flakes

that contain, in addition to copper, at least one additional metallic alloy component, and

are produced via vacuum deposition of metal films onto a carrier sheet, stripping of the films from the carrier sheet, and subsequent comminuting of the films;

wherein the flakes contain ~~at least 51~~90-99% copper and ~~between 1 and 49%~~1-10% aluminum.

**2. (Canceled)**

**3. (Currently Amended)** ~~Lustrous~~The lustrous vacuum-deposited copper-based metal flakes according to claim 1, characterized in that the flakes contain silicon as an additional alloy component.

**4. (Currently Amended)** ~~Lustrous~~The lustrous vacuum-deposited copper-based metal flakes according to claim 1,

characterized in that the flake-shaped effect pigment has plane-parallel surfaces and a thickness between 10 and 100 nm.

**5. (Currently Amended)** ~~Lustrous,~~ The Lustrous vacuum-deposited copper-based metal flakes according to claim 1, characterized in that the surface of the pigment particles is coated with an anticorrosive layer.

**6. (Currently Amended)** ~~Lustrous,~~ The lustrous vacuum-deposited copper-based metal flakes according to claim 5, characterized in that the anticorrosive layer contains aluminum oxide, silicon oxide, phosphate, phosphoric acid, phosphoric ester, phosphinic acid, silanes, organically modified silicates, titanates, zirconates or methacrylate-based polymer layers or combinations of these compounds.

**7. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended)** A method for producing the lustrous, vacuum-deposited copper-based metal flakes according to ~~[[f]]~~ claim 1, said method comprising ~~with~~ the following process steps:

a) optionally applying a release coat on a carrier sheet;

b) applying of a metal film comprising said copper and said aluminum onto the release coat or the carrier sheet;

c) stripping of the metal film; and

d) comminuting to pigment particles.

**8. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended)** ~~A~~The method according to claim 7, characterized in that the step of applying of the metal film takes place through evaporation of the alloy components.

**9. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended)** ~~A~~The method according to claim 7, characterized in that the step of applying of the metal film takes place through separate evaporation of the alloy components.

**10. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended)** ~~A~~The method according to claim 7, characterized in that the step of applying of the metal film takes place through separate evaporation of an alloy and one or more additional components.

**11. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended)** ~~A~~The method according to claim 7, characterized in that the step of

applying of the metal film takes place through electron beam, resistance heating, or radiation heating.

**12. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended)** ~~A~~ The method according to claim 7, characterized in that the step of applying of the metal film takes places through flash evaporation, simultaneous evaporation, or jumping beam evaporation.

**13. (Currently Amended)** The lustrous vacuum-deposited copper-based metal flakes of claim 4 having a thickness between 20 and 60 nm.

**14. (Currently Amended)** ~~Lustrous,~~ The lustrous vacuum-deposited copper-based metal flakes according to claim 13, characterized in that the surface of the pigment particles is coated with an anticorrosive layer.

**15. (Currently Amended)** ~~Lustrous~~ The lustrous vacuum-deposited copper-based metal flakes according to claim 3, characterized in that the flake-shaped effect pigment has plane-parallel surfaces and a thickness between 10 and 100 nm.

**16. (Currently Amended)** ~~Lustrous,~~ The lustrous vacuum-  
deposited copper-based metal flakes according to claim 15,  
characterized in that the surface of the pigment particles is  
coated with an anticorrosive layer.

**17. (New)** The lustrous vacuum-deposited copper-based  
metal flakes according to claim 1, said metal flakes having  
mirror-smooth undisturbed surfaces and uniform thickness.

**18. (New)** The lustrous vacuum-deposited copper-based  
metal flakes according to claim 17, wherein said metal flakes  
have a high reflectability and a high tinctorial power.

**19. (New)** The lustrous vacuum-deposited copper-based  
metal flakes according to claim 1, wherein the pigment  
particles have a particle size between 3 and 150  $\mu\text{m}$ .